

How is My Child Care Provider Chosen?

You choose your own Licensed or Registered child care provider. These providers meet Montana's basic regulations regarding child development, health and safety. Generally, your child care provider receives a direct payment from the State.

Can I Choose a Family Member or Friend as My Provider?



Family members and friends are often eligible to be paid as “Legally Certified” child care providers through the Best Beginnings Scholarship program. If your provider is not registered or licensed, they need to complete a simple application and pass child and adult protective service and criminal background checks. The Child Care Resource and Referral program will help with this process.

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Montana Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies:

Billings - District VII HRDC

- Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure & Yellowstone Counties
(406) 247-4732 or (800) 433-1411

Bozeman - Child Care Connections

- Gallatin, Meagher & Park Counties
(406) 587-7786 or (800) 962-0418

Butte - Butte 4C's

- Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Granite, Madison, Powell & Silver Bow Counties
(406) 723-4019 or (800) 794-4061

Glasgow - Hi-Line Home Program, Inc.

- Daniels, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan & Valley Counties
(406) 228-9431 or (800) 659-3673

Glendive - DEAP Child Care Resource & Referral

- Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Richland & Wibaux Counties
(406) 377-4909 or (800) 578-4909

Great Falls - Family Connections-MT

- Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Pondera, Teton & Toole Counties
(406) 761-6010 or (800) 696-4503

Havre - District IV HRDC

- Child Care Link - Blaine, Hill & Liberty Counties
(406) 265-6743 or (800) 640-6743

Helena - Child Care Partnerships

- Broadwater, Jefferson & Lewis & Clark Counties
(406) 443-4608 or (888) 244-5368

Kalispell - The Nurturing Center

- Flathead, Lake, Lincoln & Sanders Counties
(406) 756-1414 or (800) 204-0644

Lewistown - District VI HRDC

- Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum & Wheatland Counties
(406) 535-7488 or (800) 766-3018

Miles City & Glendive—DEAP Child Care Resource & Referral

- Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud & Wibaux Counties
(406) 234-6034 or (800) 224-6034

Missoula - Child Care Resources

- Mineral, Missoula & Ravalli Counties
(406) 728-6446 or (800) 728-6446

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Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

Department of Public Health & Human Services

Child Care Scholarships



What is the Best Beginnings Scholarship Program?

Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarships are child care payment awards to help Montana working families pay for child care.

The Best Beginnings Scholarship Program helps families pay for child care while they

- work;
- work & attend school;
- attend high school;
- participate in Montana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Some additional restrictions may apply.



How do I find out if my family can participate?

It's simple. Call your Child Care Resource and Referral agency, listed on the back of this brochure, and ask!

What are the requirements for receiving a Best Beginnings Scholarship?

- 1) **Families must meet a Minimum Work Requirement:** A two parent household needs to work 120 hours each month. A single parent household needs to work 60 hours each month. A single parent, while attending school full time, needs to work 40 hours each month. When there are two parents, the work hours may be divided between the two. One parent may meet the work requirement while the other goes to school.
- 2) **Maximum Income Guidelines:** Household size generally includes the parent(s) and their children. A household of two may receive up to \$1,891 per month, gross income, and be eligible. When families apply at their Child Care Resource and Referral agency, income is evaluated by an eligibility specialist. Use the income eligibility table below as a guide:

Income Eligibility Table

Household	Gross Monthly Income
2	\$1,891
3	\$2,386
4	\$2,881
5	\$3,376
6	\$3,871
7	\$4,366
8	\$4,861

Do I Pay Any Child Care Costs to My Provider?

Everyone pays a co-payment based on a sliding fee scale. A family of four with a gross monthly income of \$2,881 pays a copayment of \$403 to the provider and Best Beginnings pays the provider for the child care used during that month, up to the State provider rate. Some families pay a co-payment of as little as \$10 a month.

Depending on your family size and monthly income, you pay a once a month payment to your child's provider and the Best Beginnings Scholarship pays the rest.

Is the co-payment the only cost?

The State child care provider rate varies according to the type of child care, the type of facility and the location. Some providers charge more than the State rate or have additional fees. Families are responsible for any fees over and above the State provider rates.

